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REFERENCE TO THE ARMY'S MOVEMENT NORTHWARD PROBABLY REFERS TO THE REDEPLOYMENT THAT HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR WEEKS NOW. THE MOVEMENT INTO THE CITIES IS NEW BUT IS FURTHER INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT ITS PLAN BY DECREE IN THE POPULATION CENTERS RATHER THAN SEEK AN IMMEDIATE CONFRONTATION WITH THE KURDS. SARZANI HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT THE KURDISH REBELS WILL NOT TRY TO DEFEND POPULATION CENTERS WHERE THEY WOULD BE AT A DISADVANTAGE BUT WOULD MOVE INTO THE MOUNTAINS WHERE THE TERRAIN WOULD GIVE THEM THE ADVANTAGE. SKIRMISHES AND REBEL FORAYS WILL CONTINUE BUT NEITHER SIDE APPEARS TO WANT A MAJOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION AT THIS TIME. IF THE KURDS SUCCEED IN FRUSTRATING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AT LEAST A FACADE OF "KURDISH AUTONOMY," THE DANGER OF SERIOUS FIGHTING WILL INCREASE. FURTHERMORE IF THE KURDISH REBELS ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE OIL INSTALLATIONS IN THE KIRKUK AREA OR OTHER IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS IN THE NORTH, GOVERNMENT FORCES PROBABLY WILL RESPOND WITH HEAVY ATTACKS ON KURDISH STRONGHOLDS. HOWEVER, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, THE GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY INTENDS TO TRY TO IMPOSE ITS PLAN THROUGH

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DECREE AND A MINIMUM USE OF FORCE RATHER THAN THROUGH A MASSIVE
MILITARY EFFORT AGAINST THE BARZANI-LED KURDISH REBELS. THERE
ARE ALSO SUGGESTIONS THAT BARZANI, HIMSELF, FACED WITH THE
POSSIBILITY OF ALL-OUT WAR, IS SEEKING OUTSIDE MEDIATION OF THE
KURDISH DISPUTE WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. E-2 IMPDET.H

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